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The totals include small amounts of MnO, SrO, BaO, and other oxides.

**The Rocks of Mount Rainier.** — The volcanics of Mount Rainier<sup>1</sup> are basaltic and andesitic lavas and tuffs, passing into one another by almost imperceptible gradations. The predominant andesite is hypersthene, but other pyroxenes often occur with the hypersthene and sometimes replace it entirely in the rock mass. The platform upon which the volcanics were extruded consists of a granite either hornblendic or biotitic.

**Luquer's Minerals in Rock Sections**<sup>2</sup> is an attempt to furnish to students in as few words as possible an account of the practical methods of identifying the minerals occurring in rocks by means of their optical and other physical properties as they may be observed in thin sections under the microscope.

The general principles of optics are discussed in the first thirty-four pages of the book as an introduction to the description of the characteristics of the individual minerals. Unfortunately, this discussion is so condensed that it can afford no help to the student unless it is accompanied by explanatory lectures. As a summary of a course of lectures in optics it might possibly be of value. The discussion explains nothing; it is merely a dogmatic statement of facts, sometimes so bare of explanatory or illustrative phrases as to leave only a confused impression in the mind of the reader. This is particularly noticeable in the case of the definitions. For instance, the first time the term "extinction angle" is used, it is described as the angle between the axis of elasticity and the crystallographic axis, without reference in any way to the fact of extinction. There is much loose expression in this part of the book, which, of course, might easily be corrected in a new edition.

The chapter on the microscopic features of the individual minerals covers forty-five pages. Here we find a very concise description of the principal diagnostic characters of the minerals most frequently found in rocks, with brief remarks on their occurrence.

A noteworthy feature of the volume is the clear manner in which directions are given for the manipulation of the apparatus employed

<sup>1</sup> Smith, G. O. *Eighteenth Ann. Rep. U. S. Geol. Survey*, Pt. ii, p. 416.

<sup>2</sup> *Minerals in Rock Sections*. The practical methods of identifying minerals in rock sections with the microscope. By L. McL. Luquer, C.E., Ph.D. vii + 117 pp., 48 figs. Price \$1.40. New York, D. Van Nostrand Co., 1898.

in the investigation of the optical constants. The methods described, while simple, are those in most use among practical petrographers. Some of them are here given for the first time in English text.

Though the book has some faults, some of them serious ones in a student's text-book, it will unquestionably be of service as affording a convenient summary of lecture courses. It is also a good note-book on the microscopical characters of minerals.

**The Fuess Catalogue.**<sup>1</sup> — The author, who for several years has directed the optical section of the Fuess establishment, has here given a complete description of all the Fuess instruments made for optical or allied purposes, including, therefore, spectro- and refractometers and spectro-photographic apparatus, goniometers, polaniscopes and microscopes, section-cutting machinery, heliostats, and projection and micro-photographic apparatus. The work is really a text-book for the principles of construction, use, and adjustment of these instruments, and contains numerous additional references to the literature of the subject. The abundant illustrations elucidate the text.

**Petrographical Notes.** — Patton<sup>2</sup> notes that mica-schists in contact with pegmatite veins on the Belcher Hill road between Golden and Central City, Colorado, are impregnated with tourmaline to a very great extent. Sometimes the tourmaline is noticed in the cleavages of the schist, when the resulting rock is a banded or laminated one. Where the contact action was more severe the tourmaline is in streaks, which, however, bear no definite relation to the original cleavage direction of the schist, which in many cases has been obliterated. The tourmalinized schists are composed of quartz and muscovite, in addition to the tourmaline, while the schists that have not been impregnated with tourmaline contain an abundance of biotite. The tourmaline, as seen in thin section, is discovered to be full of quartz inclusions, and to enclose here and there small grains of rutile or zircon. The pegmatite veins that are supposed to have caused the alteration in the schists are thought by the author to be segregation veins.

Kemp<sup>3</sup> is continuing his studies on the geology of Essex County, N. Y. In a recent report he describes briefly the rocks of the town-

<sup>1</sup> Leiss, C. *Die optischen Instrumente der Firma R. Fuess, deren Beschreibung, Justierung, und Anwendung.* 233 figs., 3 plates. Leipzig, W. Engelmann, 1899.

<sup>2</sup> *Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer.*, vol. x, p. 21.

<sup>3</sup> *Fifteenth Ann. Rep. State Geologist* (New York), p. 575.